

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application, with claims 11-16 being allowed and claims 4-8 and 10 being indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter (assuming correction of an antecedent basis issue in claim 6). Claims 1 and 6 are amended to correct minor antecedent basis issues, and claims 4 and 10 are amended to be independent so that claims 4-8 and 10 should now be allowed. Claim 1 is also amended to clarify that the stator includes a series of vanes or blades. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested in view of such amendments and the following remarks.

Drawing Objection

The drawings are objected to for minor informalities. Replacement sheets are being submitted with this Response. No new matter is being presented. Accordingly, the objection should be overcome.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lack of antecedent basis. That issue is rectified by amending claim 6 to depend from claim 5, which provides the necessary antecedent support. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Art-Based Rejection

Claims 1-3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by DE 4334339. Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection and requests that it be withdrawn. As discussed with the Examiner by phone, amending claim 1 to specify that the stator includes a series of blades or vanes clearly differentiates over DE '339 since the volute in that reference – what the Examiner construed as a stator – clearly does not have such structure.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7589.137.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Novak Druce + Quigg LLP
1000 Louisiana, Fifty-Third Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 571-3400
(713) 456-2836 (fax)
tracy.druce@novakdruce.com

Respectfully submitted,

/Kenneth M. Fagin/

Kenneth M. Fagin, Esq.
Reg. No. 37,615
ken.fagin@novakdruce.com